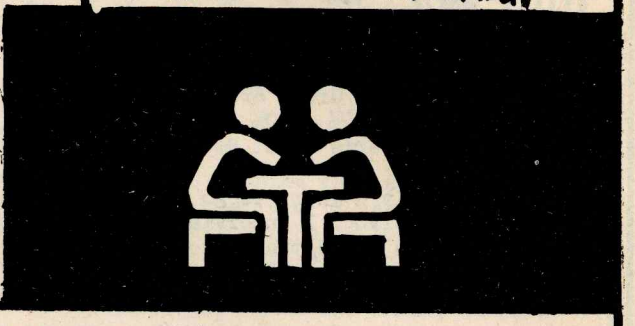
LONGSIGHT NEWS

4p

Nº 11 AUGUST-SEPTEMBER '76.

NEW LAW CENTRE.



MANCHESTER LAW CENTRE

Manchester Law Centre opened on 12th July 1976 but nothing happened! Three people came into the Centre on the first day and it has gradually built up since. We think this was partly due to not having our sign up and this has now arrived.

The Law Centre is the result of several years of work and preparation by a number of people whose efforts have been supplemented by the City Council and the Manchester Law Society to transform the Law Centre from a possibility into a much needed reality. We hope people will use the Centre to full advantage.

There are already approximately 20 Law Centres in the county including 13 in London, the nearest to Manchester being the Vauxhall Centre in Liverpool.

LEGAL ADVICE

We aim to provide legal advice and assistance to persons of limited means and to local Groups where the services of a Solicitor in private practice are not easily available. We want to do away with the formal atmosphere of legal workings. We also hope to explain how tribunals, courts etc., work. We would welcome your suggestion on how our Centre should be run and what areas of information you lack at present.

STAFF EMPLOYED

Five people are at present employed at the Centre and they are Jon and Carolyn - Solicitors, Wendy - Community Worker and Tess and Cherry - Caseworkers. It is intended that the full complement of nine members of staff will be employed by the end of this year. We hope to concentrate on Landlord/Tenant problems, Crime, Social Security and general Welfare Rights.

AREAS OF WORK

Such areas of work would include research into legal problems, preparing leaflets and reports of a legal nature with reference to the people whom the Law Centre is intended to serve. In addition it will become involved in local Tenants Associations and other groups in an advisory and active capacity. However, no-one coming into the Centre will be turned away and we are always ready to offer advice and information about referrals.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We have a Management Committee which consists of 3 Councillors, 3 members of the Law Society, 5 community representatives, 1 member from the Citizens Advice Bureaux and one member from the Council of Voluntary Service. The number of community representatives has now been increased to 8 and we are having elections in October to choose representatives. A lot of Groups in Longsight will be asked to nominate. We hope as many people as possible will take part and nominate somebody.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

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HOURS OF OPENING

MON AND THURS 10AM—9.30PM.

WED. 10AM—2PM.

TUE. AND FRI. 10AM—6PM.

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HOUSING ACTION AREA REPORT

It is now nearly a year since the residents of the Slade Lane/Slade Grove area heard that they were to be allowed 75% - 90% improvement grants as one of Manchester's first Housing Action Areas.

There are now only 4 years to go and a lot of problems to be solved. I interviewed several people from the area and heard these stories

A common worry is that IT COSTS TOO MUCH. Mrs Horner of 9 Slade Lane had an estimate of over £4,000. She felt her builders prices were reasonable but that the standard set by the area Improvement Team was too high. She asked them to go and see her and Mr Griffin agreed with her that some work could be left out. Now the estimate is only £3200 which is much more to Mrs Hoerners liking.

Mr Milward of 31 Clitheroe Rd said he found the Area Team very helpful."If people are dissatisfied they should push the town hall into doing more for them" he said.

Another difficulty is the LENGTH OF TIME IT TAKES FOR A GRANT TO BE APPROVED.
Mr and Mrs Boyle of 36 Clitheroe Rd applied at the beginning of this year, thinking all would be finished by the summer, but they are still waiting for the town hall to finish with their papers and have no news of when the builder will be able to start. The Boyles said, "With the prices going up all the time, all this delay is pushing up the amount we'll have to pay ourselves. It would be better if the Corporation had brought Direct Works in to improve the houses themselves."

Mrs Vasallo of 41 Clitheroe Rd also hoped the builders would have started in her house in June. She hopes the family can move out while the work is being done but the Area Team have said that it isn't possible.

This is just a small sample of residents who were keen on improvements to start with. The area team would not tell us the number of residents who have already applied for a grant.

BUY AT £2,000... SELL AT £5,100!

HOUSE FOR SALE £3,000 profit
The facts tell their own story:
7 Duncan Rd, Longsight

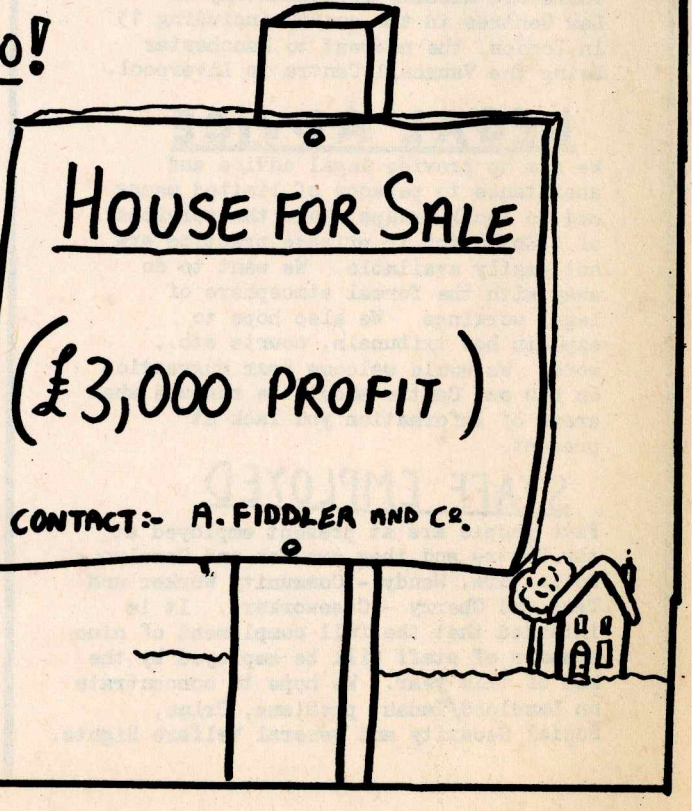
Last year, after the tenants were illegally evicted, no 7 Duncan Rd was offered for sale at £2,000. Birch Housing Co-op tried to buy it but someone else offered cash.

No improvement grant has been given on the house, nobody has lived in it, it has had windows renewed and has been painted. Now it is up for sale a again at £5,100 in the Evening News.

The owner who is hoping to make £3,000 profit is John Miskell, notorious previously for the poor condition of the houses he let eg. 2 & 4 Driscoll St and 8 Clitheroe Rd, and his harrassment of the tenants.

How many other landlords are profiteering in the same way?

Please let us know.



UP TO STANDARD?

We looked round for houses where improvement work is taking place and asked how they were getting on. Mr Oughton of 25 Slade Grove, instead of waiting for a grant has now almost finished the inside of his house himself, spending £1500 on materials. He is confident his house will be up to standard but is worried what will happen if other houses around don't get improved.

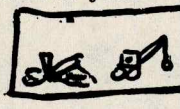
"RISING COSTS"

At 17 Duncan Rd, Mr Hussain was not happy. He has had a grant approved and the builders are at work. The family are living upstairs as they did not want to have to pay rent and removal costs for another house during the work. Manchester, unlike Trafford Council, do not provide people with rent-free accomodation. The builders also found that more repairs were needed and the cost went up soon after they started work. The Area Team are helping Mr Hussain to keep the estimate as low as possible.

"It is Sickening"

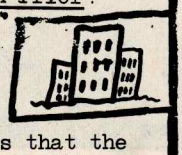
We have also noticed that improvements are not being done on houses the town hall own in the area, yet they are still buying more. Last Housing Committee approved the purchase of 3 houses in Stamford Rd and one in Hector Rd. Mr Wat ers of 40 Slade Grove said "They should be doing their houses first, they should be showing the lead". Mrs Pinnock who rents 46 Slade Grove from the corporation has asked about improvement but nobody will tell her anything. "It is sickening," she says, "a lot of things need doing in this house. You can't do anything while the place is falling down around you."

REFUSED MORTGAGES.



In fact the City Architects have said they won't be doing improvements til Christmas so other corporation owned houses will be left empty until after that. YET THEY ARE NEGOTIATING TO BUY 365 HOUSES IN MANCHESTER IMPROVEMENT AREAS - SOME FOR RESALE. Private buyers have difficulty buying in this area because despite its promises the corporation has refused mortgages. It did this when Cath Prior tried to buy 20 Clitheroe Rd.

RESIDENT'S DILEMMA



Everyone in the improvement area realises that the task of improving their own house and maintaining the area is not an easy one. There are probably several residents who will move away and not go through with it. Nevertheless there are still a lot of people who are keen to stay and are looking forward to improved houses. They had expected greater flexibility and concern from the town hall officials. Most people felt that they should not have left their area office, as the town hall own other houses they could have moved to and that the town hall should have given people greater confidence by improving their own houses and dealing quickly with improvement applications. With determination residents may yet get the sort of improvements they want but they may have to "push the town hall to do more for them." M.G. + M.W.

GAS CUT OFF.

One of the families in the area recently had their gas cut off. Only part of the bill was due for payment, about £13.
The wife let the gasman in not knowing he was goint to cut off the gas. On the same day the husband went to the Gas Board and paid the sum due but at the same time was told that a deposit of £25 had to be paid before reconnection of gas, so the next day the wife took £25 to pay the deposit but for some reason only £20 were charged. Of course, the follow-day the gas was reconnected. Good thing eh!

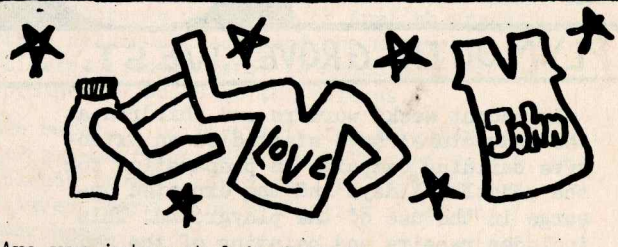
However...

However, the family wanted the £20 back, they said they could not afford to leave this sum outstanding with the gas board for any length of time. We made several phone calls regarding this and were told that the deposit was not refundable except when the family changed its address. We told them that it was unreasonable as the family owned their own house and is likely to be living there for a long time, may be even 30 years. The gas board said that there was nothing they could do about it but that the deposit attracted a 3½% interest we told them that the bank would give them much more than that and that the family wanted the money back, they had a large family and could not afford to give it to the gas board as a compulsory long term loan, which it was on the face of it.

So...

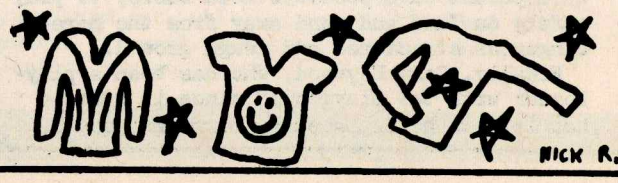
We found we were getting nowhere with the Gas Board so we wrote a letter to the Gas Consumer Council explaining the position in detail. Many weeks passed, we had no reply from the Gas Consumer Council, then suddenly this week they replied saying that "If the people concerned were to pay their bills regularly for the next 18 months, their £20 deposit would be refunded to them with the interest accrued.

HAMILTON RD. ADVICE CENTRE



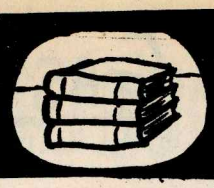
Are you interested in Silk Screen printing or designing your own Tee shirts?

Then come along to Longsight Library where you can learn all about printing your own shirts. If you love Jack you can let him know on your own Tee shirt. You can also obtain the know how about silk screen printing. You will find that this is not as difficult as you thought. All you need is the know how, which you can obtain from Longsight Library staff who will soon put you in the picture. A group is now being formed.



NICK R.

LONGSIGHT LIBRARY.



Longsight Library will shortly be giving away free copies of a booklist which we hope will be of particular interest to library users with interests in the New Commonwealth. The list covers some of the books which may be obtained from Longsight Library on topics relating to the Sub-continent of India, Africa, the West Indies and relevant aspects of North America.
The list covers both fiction and non-fiction. The Library is hoping to spread its coverage in this area in the very near future and the Librarian, Pat Coleman, would welcome suggestions of books which could be bought for the Library.

STORYTIME IN THE PARKS

During the school Summer holidays staff of East Manchester Libraries will be holding story telling sessions in some of the local parks. In the Longsight area we shall be covering:
Crowcroft Park on Tuesday August 20th at 10.30a.m.
Ardwick Green on Friday August 6th at 2.15 p.m.
Birchfields Park on Tuesday August 16th at 2.15p.m.
We hope as many children as possible will be there to hear the stories.

SUMMER OUTING!

The library staff have hired a double decker bus which will take approximately 70 children to Southport on Thursday August 26th. The bus will depart from outside the library at 9.30 a.m. and will return to Longsight at 3.30p.m. Tickets must be obtained from the library before the day of the outing and cost 10 pence each. All children aged 13 years and under are welcome.

LONGSIGHT ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

PLYMOUTH GROVE WEST.

In recent weeks workers and children at the 'Adventure' have started on an extensive building campaign in preparation for the school holidays and the expected upsurge in the use of the playground. This includes repairs and painting of the main fencing and entrance, and the construction of a large and steep slide that will eventually give its users a flat but safe ride into a cunningly placed sandpit.

KIDDIES CORNER...

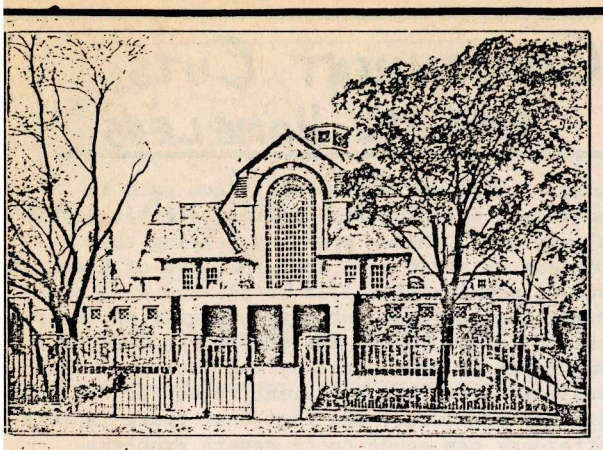
Priority has however been given to the construction of a "Kiddies Corner" that will enable the younger children, hopefully watched by a parent on a possible rota basis, to play safely on Turf and sand away from the more dangerous structures and rough ground.

Finally, Gary Heywood, who has been a playleader with the playground since it started has left to be replaced by Larry Memanoman.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

The Adventure Playground at Plymouth Grove West is sounding out the possibilities of securing covered accomodation on the ground, so that activites can take place during bad weather. Mukhtar and David and Gwen invite local people to help with suggestions adn a little of peoples time to make the Adventure Ground a success.

The summer holidays will soon be here, and the Adventure Playground Group have many plans for the vacation. Swimming, outings, dnacing, inflatables, and a special treat, camping the last week in August at Unsworth.



Negotiations took place from 1968 to 1971 for demolition of old buildings which started on 16th Oct 1971. The new building opened on 6th Dec 1975.

THE ROBY, DICKENSON RD

The new church of Roby United Reformed Church on Dickenson Rd, newly named as a result of the unification of congragationalist and presbyterian churches, draws attention to the Manchester & Longsight origens of Roby Church.

The Roby Congragational Church was descended from the 'Independent Church' in Cannon St licensed for church worship in 1762, and was an ancestor of the Cavendish St and Chorlton Rd Churches initiated by Rev William Roby on Dec 3rd 1807 at Grosvenor St, Piccadilly. It removed to Dickenson Rd in Feb1912 as the Roby Congregational Church.

Thanks to the archives dept of the central library where the records of the Roby Church are now lodged I was able to assemble these brief notes.

CONT

LOCAL HISTORY

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The record book unfortunately suffered from dampness while resting in the school building during the building of the new church, and some of the recordings are not very legible.

The size of the congragation on 1840 can be judged by the mention of 2,000 children being assembled in that year at a festival. Walks and

trips were quite a feature of the social activities of the church and a much quoted item in the minutes is buns and milk and currant bread. Perhaps this being the hungry 40s may go some way to explaining the popularity of these items.

Although the railways had been built only a few years earlier, the Church was quick to take advantage of the new form of travel, and trips were made to Mills Hill near Middleton on the Manchester- Leeds railway, and other trips via the Manchester & Lincoln Railway. All of course assisted by buns and milk and currant bread.

In 1843 a trip was organized at 6am to Knott Mill, and after prayers for a safe journey, set off for Dunham Massey in 3 boats. Roby must have been a very progressive church as mention is made of a 'writing school, and mutual improvement class'. Later among invited speakers (older people will remember) was 'Romany', an early radio speaker on Childrens Hour. A popular hymn tune was Work For The Night Is Coming, exemplifying the emphasis on diligence and forthrightness.

T.P.

T.P.

MORE HISTORY FOR LONGSIGHT.

Continuing into the middle nineteenth century, brings us to the culmination of 200 years of efforts to abolish the slave trade.

Slavery was the foundation on which rose a powerful social class. A class constituting only a tiny minority of the population. It is well to remember that opposed to this minority, who in the present age advocate racial superiority, there was a tolerant majority which asserted the right to challenge the vilest system which man had devised; the ownership and bondage of human beings as slaves.
The first challenge to this belief was by a founder member of the Quakers, a George Fox in 1671, which led ultimately to the abolition of slavery.
It took 200 years to bring the challenge to fruition.

Those of African blood on the continent and beyond remember the cruel years when their people were accounted less than cattle.
Sections of the white population have inherited ancestral dreams of racial superiority as a legacy of those days.

CONT

Numbers of slaves sold into bondage in the Americas are believed to account for at least 12,000,000. The numbers who died will never be known.
Many fortunes were made by English traders in this nefarous trade; and the money helped Liverpool and Bristol to found much of their prosperity based on the returns.

An outstanding figure in the late 18th and early 19th century was William Wilberforce, M.P. who fought from an early age, to stop the trade in slaves, carried on by English ships and merchants.
He died in his 60s, and had he lived would have seen his efforts successful; for the British. government passed a law outlawing slavery in the British dominions.
A full description of the horrors and cruelties of slavery is not possible in this short text, but books are available in libraries which give full accounts of this pernicious system, which did not receive full international condemnation until after the last war.
Traces still exist under various guises, indentured labour, mock marriages of women to lure them into white slave traffic, and indebtedness of rural peasants to racketeering moneylenders in many parts of the east.

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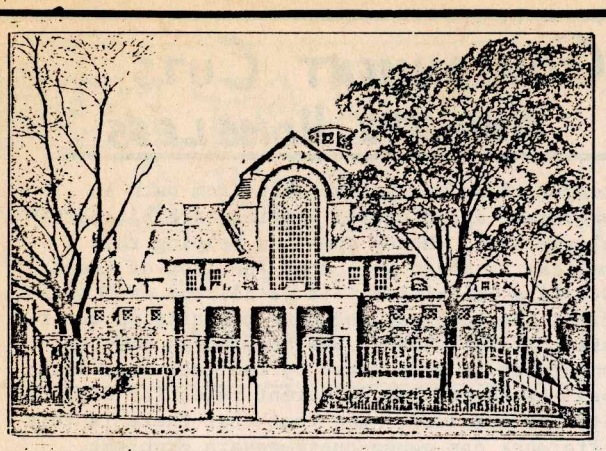

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TP

OVER 60's OUTING

During the Longsight Festival Week, the tenants association were involved in an Over 60s evening drive, the coaches were paid for by the "New Longsight" folks and as a small gesture on behalf of our tenants we provided some light refreshments.
It was a magnificient sight, the pleasure these old people got out of a drive, a sandwich, and most of all company. If you can imagine not going outside your own front door for 3 years, or living next door to someone for 12 months and not able to speak to each other, because you couldn't walk to your own doorstep, this will give you some idea of the effort involved not only to get the people to the coach, but to get them on it and off again.

THANKS

Altogether from the Anson Estate 26 people were invited, but 4 didn't come for obvious reasons and despite the rain it was a wonderful evening, as was the whole of the Festival week, all praise, to the hard work and planning of such people as, Dave, Andy, and everyone else too numerous to mention and most of all to the children and parents who supported it.

Maureen Theirens.

HOLIDAY PAY SUCCESS!

A woman working in a hotel, in the centre of Manchester, as an assistant cook was expected to do two other persons' work (two persons from the kitchen had recently left). This went on for quite a while.
She complained that she could not carry on like this and that it was affecting her nerves, making her bad tempered. One morning when she was washing the dishes she was asked to make the toast for breakfast. She felt that she had had enough, she just couldn't bear it any more so she put on her coat and walked out this happened on a Friday.
When she had calmed down a bit and had time to think she returned to work next Monday morning only to be told by the chef that she had been sacked. She did not know of her rights i.e. holiday pay, etc.
We 'phoned the hotel on her behalf regarding her holiday pay and we were told that she was not entitled to any and that in fact she had walked out. We argued that the chef, did say that she was sacked so how could you say that she walked out. The manager would not speak to us, he had delegated the wages dept, to sort this out, who kept insisting that it was the hotel's policy not to pay holiday pay when somebody walked out besides she had not been in their employ for long, to warrant holiday pay. We explained that the woman had worked for 4½ months and that she was entitled to holiday pay. After a long hassle they agreed that they would pay holiday pay, when we enquired how much and for how many days, we were told that it would be for 2 days we said that it should be for 6½ days, but after a few more telephone calls we managed to obtain for this worker 5 days holiday pay which could be collected by her any time.

HAMILTON RD. ADVICE CENTRE.

GOVERNMENT CUTS AND THE HOMELESS

Amongst those who suffer most from cuts in Government spending the homeless are hit particularly hard. Money spent on helping the homeless is often well down the list of Local Authority priorities. It is all too easy to forget the homeless and many councils do their best to forget them. The problem in Greater Manchester is made worse by the fact that each Local Authority has different rules for dealing with the homeless. The fact that there is this difference can cause quite severe problems, particularly in areas like Cheetham Hill, part of which is in Salford, part in Manchester.

BEWILDERED

Often families can move a few streets without realizing they have moved from one category to another. If they then become homeless, which can often happen in rented furnished accommodation, they may well find that they are no longer on the council mailing list because they live in another authority's area. This can be particularly serious since Salford operates a policy where they refuse to accept any responsibility for families who have not lived in Salford for at least nine months. This means that if a family move from Manchester to Salford and then become homeless they may literally find themselves walking the streets.

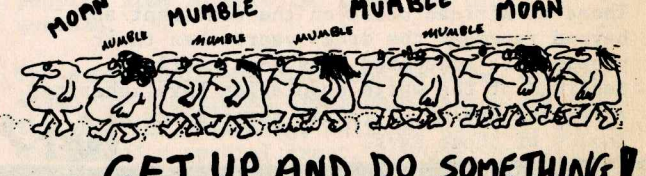
DIFFERENT TREATMENT

The way Local Authorities treat homeless families can vary a great deal. Manchester for example will attempt to keep families together while other authorities like Bury may just put the children in a home. Many of the authorities refuse to help families without children, even though the wife might be pregnant.

COMMON POLICY?

What is needed is a common policy throughout the greater Manchester area. Homelessness is bad enough without making the problem worse by 'shunting' them from Local Authority to Local Authority. Shelter : National Campaign for the Homeless is presently trying to persuade Councils in the Greater Manchester area to accept a common policy. This also needs to be backed up by legislation to make sure that councils do not leave families walking the streets. It might be easy to forget the Homeless but they are one group who need all the support we can give them.

JOHN BATTERSBY
Shelter.

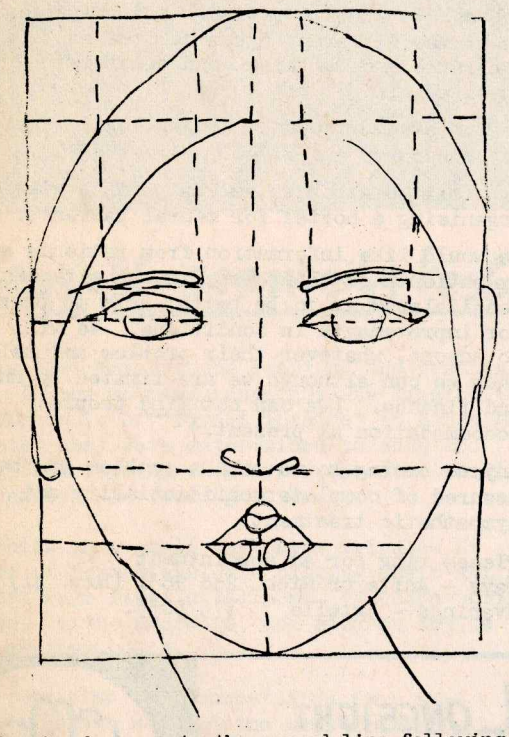


GET UP AND DO SOMETHING!

HOW TO DRAW A HEAD

STEP BY STEP

BY VALERIE BECKFORD



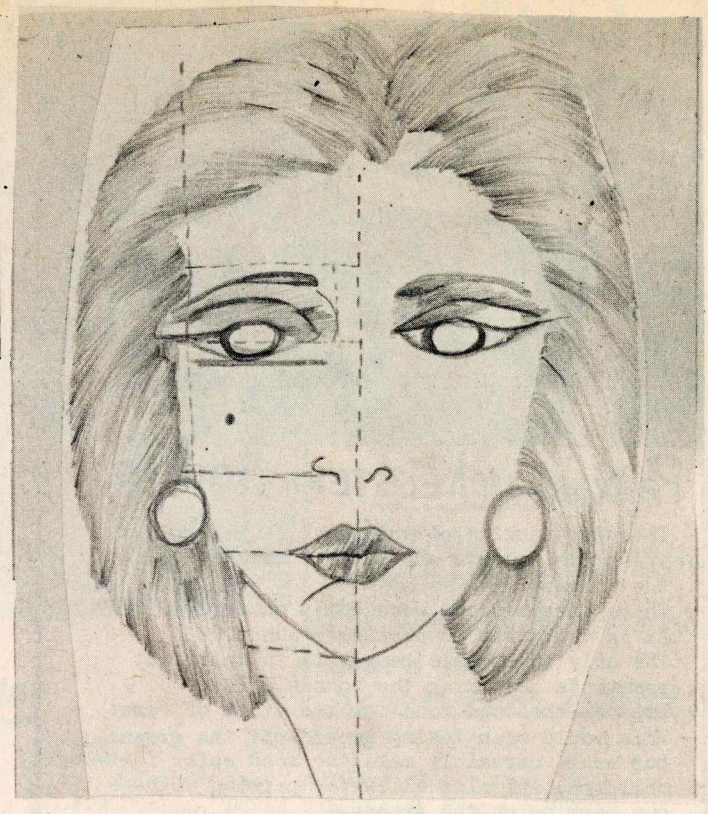
When drawing heads note the curved line following the egg shape of the head.
1. Sketch the oval shape of the head
2. Work out the proportions of the placement of the features as illustrated.

PROPORTIONS OF THE HEAD

When you start drawing heads observe the proportions of the head, notice the shape of the features ie. nose, mouth, eyes, jaw line, cheek bone etc. Observe the different expressions that can be achieved by the shape of the mouth, placing of the eyebrows, and expression in the eyes.

The head is usually sketched as the shape of an egg. You can then work out the proportions of the features as illustrated. By using this method you will develope a technique which will help you profile three-quarter view or full face. Once you have developed the method of arriving at the correct proportions you should practice different facial expressions.

In drawing faces don't put separate parts together but view the subject, you must start sketching with large and loosely running strokes and then note the proportions, which you can sketch by measuring between the height and width of the faces, then find the proportion between 3 parts of the face like the angle and outline of the face and hairdo, then you can put the detail, the eyes, nose, mouth and chin



3. Outline the hairline creating a style round the head.
4. Develope the make up depending on the effects required.

PARKING IN KELSTERN SQUARE.

The only parking place (which is illegal) on which the tenants are tempted to park is on the green.
These narrow roads were built when the car as it is today was no problem around 1923.
The only forseeable remedy is to construct pavements adjoining the houses and to broaden the road to allow the width of cars. This would mean taking ground off the greens, but would certainly make the road safer for children, and also allow for parking without parking on the greens.

TWO PETITIONS!

Two petitions were discussed; one on severe penalties against vandalism which it was stated was growing considerably in the Longsight area.
The other from the Poverty Action group urged support for the petitions against the cutting off of electricity, when low income groups were unable to meet their electric bills in winter.

APPEAL.

An appeal was made by a member for children to come to 37 Old Hall Lane on Thursday the 26th of August to help sort out how many homes have drivers parking space in the area enclosed by Birchfield Road, Dickenson Road and Lytham Road and Slade Lane.
Time 11.00 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.
The evening ended with bingo and tea.

PLAYGROUND CAMPAIGN A SUCCESS!!

Teachers and parents of children attending St. Johns School have met success at last, after all their efforts to get the playground extended. The council has finally responded and the land between the school and St. Johns Road will be made available for the playground. The work will be done by people on the government financed Job Creation Programme.

MENTAL PATIENTS UNION.

Mental Patients Union is an organisation composed of mental patients, ex-patients and others interested in the rights of the mentally ill.

We seek to educate patients and ex-patients about their legal rights and hopefully seek to help them enforce them.

We seek to educate patients and ex-patients about the different types of treatment available and the risks and benefits involved.

We run study groups on drugs, legal rights, psychosurgery and E.C.T.

A committee has been set up with a view to organising a hostel for mental patients.

We would like information from patients and ex-patients on their experiences with mental hospitals so as to be better able to press for improvements in conditions. We will talk to anyone, whatever their problem and help when we can although we are limited by numbers and finance. (We can not find people accommodation at present.)

Anyone coming to us with a problem can be assured of complete confidentiality and sympathetic treatment.

Please ring for an appointment
Days - Anita or Nick 236 9831 (Ext. 41)
Evenings - Estelle 773 5035.

LONGSIGHT COMMUNITY GARDENING CLUB.

David McGuire (secretary)
For and on behalf of the Committee
30 Dobson Close
Longsight. Tel. 273-2238

On Mon 28th June we held a meeting outside in the air to talk about starting a gardening club. Although only 5 people turned up we decided to go ahead because we are sure that more members will join us once we get started.

We decided to meet fortnightly during the summer and monthly during the winter and hope to produce a monthly newsletter giving useful gardening tips, swapping plants etc. We aim to share our equipment, interests, and experiences so please join us. A programme of slide shows, visits to gardens etc is at present being worked out.

Our next meeting is in the Longsight Public Hall on Wed Aug 11th at 8pm. Please come along.

For information: contact Mary Oliver (secretary) 19 Markfield Ave, Longsight.

LONELY? BORED?

WATCH OUT!!...

-for the Skills Exchange board in the neighbourhood centre!

Longsight community Festival.

Monday 31st May saw the start of the Festival Week. In the morning Longsight was treated to the spectacle of 'Street Theatre' in Longsight streets. They were entertained to song and music from a group of players who started off the Festival in rousing style.

Meanwhile on a small park near Grindlow St scores of youngsters were pitting their agility against huge plastic balloons, by endeavouring to jump on the monsters, and stay on top as long as they could.

There was also keen competition from the kiddies to see who had the most fantastic designs painted on their faces by members of the Counter Action group who were supervising the festivities.

EXHIBITION

The Longsight Public Library joined in the festivities by exhibiting a series of photographs of Manchester in the last century. It was evident that poverty and deprivation was the normal existence of many of the working class during that time.

LIBRARY CLUB

The library Junior Club, which meets on Weds after school hours mounted a spectacle of poetry and song capably performed by youthful members. A highlight of their contribution was a play entitled 'The Truant'. This was a humerous presentation of domestic discord, involving father helping himself to the housekeeping money on the quiet, and the wayful daughter playing truant and indulging in cigarettes. Neighbours dropped into the household and some sarcastic verbiage was exchanged. In all, it was very well staged and praise must be given to Ms Coleman, 'Jean', and Ms Dean for their dedication to the children. It would be invidious to name anyone for special notice, all the children performed to the best of their abilit-

CONT. →

CONT.

ies. A few names being Carol Newn, Carol and Debra Noonan, David Caulfield, Maureen McHugh, Anne and Pauline Stringer, Michelle Griffin, Bridget & Michael Gilfoyle, Tracy Thompson, Naseem Hussain, Diane Devlin.

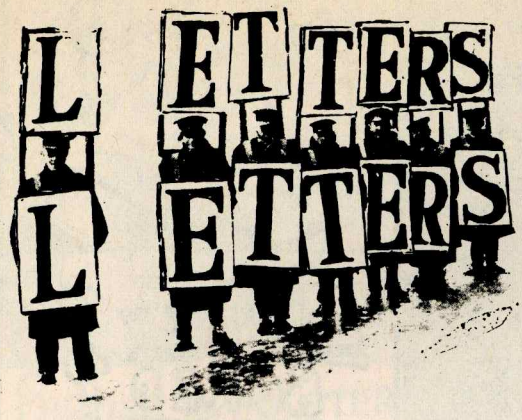
In the Longsight Public Hall the local Community Group assisted by the Counter Action Arts Community Group staged a considerable number of events later on in the week. Outstanding was an evening of entertainment by children of the Longsight Community Group, ably coached by Ms Margaret Fraser. We had a treat of dancing, songs and recitation by a talented group of children shom I suspect many Longsight adults did not know dwelt in their midst. A 'discovery' was 'Eartha Kitt' ably mimed by Michael Frazer. The gear and wig and Michael's acting deceived many into thinking it was a 'hot Mama'. Another very youthful member 'stole the show' 'diawnah Laide'. This bunch of happiness came on stage 4 times, just like a real trouper.

A trip by 2 busloads of children and adults enjoyed a days outing to Lyme Park. The same day a marvellous show entertained our senior citizens, who voted it a real good 'do'.

On Sat afternoon there was a Pot Fair and Jumble Sale and in the evening all the oldies let themselves loose to a discotheque and guitar group.

There was also a barbecue at the Adventure Playground, and a display at the library of plastic designs and grotesque paprer figures by pupils of St Clements school.

In all the week was a huge success and gave many people a surprise at what could be done by 'Longsighters'. The whole effort was related to an appeal to all, to support the Community Group in securing Longsight Public Hall for a COMMUNITY CENTRE.



A BOUQUET FOR LONGSIGHT NEWS

Dear Friends,

I have to write to you concerning the above committee and our recent Festival Week here in Longsight, May 31st to June 5th.

First I would like to thank you for the support your paper gave us and your valued interest in all the events which took place in that week.

I think you would agree that the Festival was a success, it did what was intended, in arousing interest in the local Hall which as you know we hope will bridge the gap as a community centre not just for the needs of the people of Longsight, but for all the surrounding areas.

Of course plenty of mistakes were made by us, in organization etc, but we hope to learn by these mistakes, and do a better job in future.

To all those people and groups who helped us, we extend our sincere thanks, also to all those kind people who gave us donations.

I think perhaps that people generally, and in particular those living in Longsight, should have taken a more active interest in helping by joining in the action. I know from experience that people are sometimes reluctant to offer h help (in case they think, they may not be of any use), this of course is not true, without these people we will not survive.

It is still not too late to join us. Please contact me at this address if you want to help in the future, either as a group or as an individual.

Once again a big thankyou to all who helped,

From: The Longsight Public Hall Steering Committee

SHOPS AND SHOPPERS

Dear Longsight News,

Much argument has been taking place about the sort of shopping facilities we need in the Lonsight area, and many people are claiming that the decision not to go ahead with the original plans for a shopping centre is a victory for the ordinary shopper of Longsight.

The ideal being put forward is for a shop within five minutes walking distance of any locality. This is obviously an attractive idea for many shoppers, especially the older people and those without cars, and one with which everyone would agree in principle.

How can it be achieved in practice, however, in the present situation, of cut throat competition based entirely on profit motive, with service to the shopper a very poor second??

Anyone with any knowledge of the retail trade will know that small shops have gone to the wall in thousands because of the difficulty in making them a paying proposition. This especially in a situation where one might wish to give staff decent hours and wages, keep up hygiene, choice and quality standards, and price goods at a reasonable level.

The situation has to be faced, that if small shops are provided without some form of subsidy or preference, they will have to be run by people working long opening hours, with low standards of hygiene, choice and quality, with a local monopoly to charge high prices (especially to those depedent on the shop) in the absence of competition.

I believe there is a case for both the large shop and the small locality shop. but a fight has to be made to get the smaller shops provided on the basis of service to the local community, perhaps with financial help from the local council, in return for guarantees of reasonable working hours, good standards of hygiene, choice and quality, and strict control of reasonable prices.

It's kidology to suggest that we can have small shops giving us the service we require, with reasonable working conditions, on any other basis.

It would be a hollow victory, indeed, which delivered the Longsight shoppers into the hands of a few small shopkeepers, with a monopoly to charge whatever prices they chose, and only able to make a satisfactory profit (which would be their only motive) by long working hours and dubious standards.

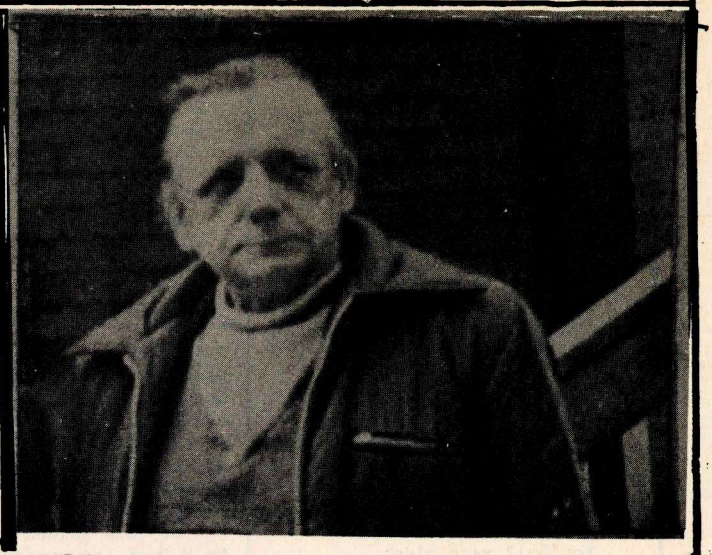
Harry Johnson

DEATH OF JACK WOLSTENHOLME.

ABOUT JACK...

We are very sorry to inform readers that Jack Wolstenholme died of a heart attack on Friday July 16.

Jack joined the Slade Lane Action Group in 1973 to help in the fight against demolition and was a spokesperson for the group at the Public Inquiry. He was also an active memb er, and the treasurer of the Birch Housing Co-op, formed to provide houses for people in housing need in the area.
Although he himself got rehoused by the council into the Anson Estate he remained in the Co-op, contributing a lot especially when it came to straight talking with the council and town hall officials.



PASSIONATE JUSTICE...

He worked in the Advice Office at the Hamilton Road Neighbourhood Centre ever since it first started in December 1974 and helped many people in all sorts of difficulties. He had a real passion about justice and when he saw injustice done to people whether by the social security, the housing department or whoever it was, he would pull out all the stops to get it put right. He was famous for his eloquent and passionate letters to officialdom. He was a lifelong supporter of and more recently a member of the Labour Party.

Chess Champ

Jack also wrote for Longsight News about things that cropped up in the improvement area and the advice centre, and he wrote a regular chess column. This was another side of Jack's life which in the last few years he had dropped in favour of his activities in the community. He was a very skilled chess player and once held the British Championship. Certainly no one round here could beat him, no matter how great the handicap.

HOSPITAL.

The last few months, after some kind of stroke that put him in hospital for a few days, were difficult for Jack. His sight was failing and his memory getting worse and he must have realized he was slowing up a lot. Although his death is undoubtedly a great loss to Longsight we can only be glad that it came suddenly without any more suffering.

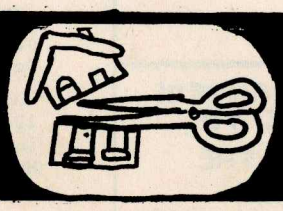
The Ceremony.

There was a moving ceremony on the morning of 28th July at Southern Cemetery Crematorium when at least 40 people including close relatives paid their last respects to the late Jack Wolstenholme.

Tributes were paid by a representative of the Neighbourhood Centre and a representative of the Chess Club. Janet Slade read a passage by Arthur Koestler, a writer Jack had drawn inspiration from.

Afterwards Jack's friends came back to the Neighbourhood Centre

PLAYGROUP CUTS!



PLAYGROUP STRUGGLES ON

College Chapel playgroup was threatened with closure when at the end of the last session the social services still had not climbed down over their insistence that the staff should all either work more weeks in the year, keeping the playgroup open in the holidays - an impossibility for mothers with older children home from school - OR take a cut in the grant which would mean either less wages or less equipment for the children.

The entire staff of the playgroup have now resigned but the playgroup committee is determined to struggle on and is looking for more staff. They hope to negotiate reasonable terms with the social services and interview people for jobs at the beginning of September, and re-open the playgroup at the beginning of October. Quite a lot of talks have been going on behind the scenes between playgroup staff from College Chapel, Beresford Rd, St Cyprians and Levenshulme, and the leader of the council. The Trades Council has also been alerted to the situation.

A MESSAGE TO ALL FRIENDS OF THE PLAYGROUP

Kath Robinson wishes to extend her thanks to all the parents and other friends who have helped the playgroup keep going in the last few years.

If anyone is interested in working part or full time at the playgroup, see ad on back page.

— ADVERTISEMENTS —

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S WANTED?

PLAYSCHEMES THIS SUMMER

1. Longsight Adventure Playground
   All through summer holidays.
   For 5-16 year olds
   10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

2. Crowcroft Park School
   10-12 and 1.30-3.30 weekdays
   26 July - 13 August.
   For 5-11 year olds.

3. Plymouth Grove School
   10-12 and 1.30-3.30 weekdays
   26 July - 13 August
   For 5-11 year olds.

4. St. Johns School
   Playscheme organised by Hamilton Road Playscheme Group.
   2-27 August
   10-12 + 1-3 Mon-Fri.
   For 5-12 year olds.

   Wed & Fri. mornings will be for 3-5 year olds.
   5p per session.

   Family Trip Sun 29th Aug.
   leaves St. Johns 10
   Returns 8
   SOUTHPORT Adult 60p
   Children 30p
   Children under 5 free.

   Anybody who would like to help is invited to contact Lynn Wood, 84 Stainer St.

5. Playhouse 117 Hamilton Road
   Open 11-1 + 2-6 Tues & Fri.
   Throughout summer holidays.

   Rollerskating Mondays 7.30
   Swimming: Sats. 1.30
   Other outings planned, come along to find out! Lots to do for kids and parents.

   Playscheme 23 Aug - 30 Aug. including
   STREET PARTY August 29th.

   VISIT OF "BANDWAGON". Fabulous outdoor entertainment Aug 30th.

6. Storytimes In The Park

   Crowcroft Park Aug 3 2.15
   and Aug 20 10.30

   Ardwick Green Aug 6 2.15

   Birchfields Park Aug 16 2.15

ONE-PARENT FAMILY GROUP
meets every Thurs evening at the Longsight Methodist Church Hall, Stockport Rd 6.30 to 8.30

BRING THE KIDS!

People you could contact if you're interested in the group: Pam Parry, 1 Sandridge Walk, Margaret Fraser, 1 Royds Close, Connie Strongithawm, 3 Elsdon Rd

Other helpers who can mind the kids Thurs nights, do babysitting, very welcome!

COLLEGE CHAPEL PLAYGROUP
DICKENSON RD LONGSIGHT
Open Mon- Fri morning & afternoon
A FULL TIME LEADER AND PART TIME OR FULL TIME HELPERS ARE REQUIRED FROM OCTOBER. DETAILS OF PAY & CONDITIONS AVAILABLE FROM PAT COLEMAN, LEVENSHULME LIBRARY, CROMWELL GROVE. 224 2775.
Closing date for applications, which should be in writing giving details of age & previous experience, should be sent to same address by 1st September.

OPPORTUNITY For Asian Women to learn English Language at College Chapel building, corner of Hamilton Rd And Dickenson Rd. Tuesdays and Fridays 10am to 12 noon. Entirely free of charge. Why not take advantage of this golden opportunity?
Ms M Puri (community worker)
Longsight Moss Side Community Project

IT'S OUR EXPRESS WISH
TO BRING
THE NEWS :-
LONGSIGHT NEWS
WEST INDIAN WORLD
CARIBBEAN WKY. POST
JAMAICA WKY. GLEANER
BLACK MUSIC
BLUES AND SOUL
BLACK ECHOES
DAILY JANG (in Urdu)

KEEP WITH THE TIMES
AT
HENRY'S
NEWSAGENTS, TOBACCONIST,
SWEETS ETC
43 SLADE LANE LONGSIGHT M/C13

SAVE OUR
TAX FREE CHILD BENEFITS
SIGN THE PETITION IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

VOLUNTEERS WANTED! FRIENDLY PEOPLE TO COME & JOIN IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PLAYHOUSE at 117 HAMILTON RD.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
113 HAMILTON ROAD
ADVICE OFFICE - OPEN
MONDAY 10AM - 730PM
THURS 2PM - 4PM
Free information on housing, dole, tenants rights, gas + electric charges & welfare benefits etc.

ADVERTS:-
ADVERTISING IS FREE!!
IF YOU HAVE A ROOM TO LET, OR KITTENS TO GIVE AWAY, OLD PIANOS, ARMCHAIRS, NEED A BABYSITTER, WOULD LIKE TO FORM GROUPS, ETC. CONTACT THE LONGSIGHT NEWS. IT WORKS MUCH BETTER THAN SHOP WINDOWS, AND IT'S FREE.

SUBSCRIBE TO LONGSIGHT NEWS
20p for 5 issues
Fill in coupon and return to Longsight News
113 Hamilton Road, with 20p.
Name .....
Address .....
.....

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GET SLIM, BE BEAUTIFUL
WITH J & M SLIMMING CLUB
ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CLUB
PLYMOUTH GROVE
LONGSIGHT
Every Thursday at 8 p.m.

Weekend Growth/encounter Groups in Manchester:

25-26 Encounter Group led Sept. by Hans Lobstein

16-17 Encounter Group led Oct. by John Rowan

Contact Eric Pleace, 12 Birchfields Ave., Longsight, Manchester, 13. Tel: 061-224 5903.

Also good furniture & clothes. Rooms available for meetings. 113 Hamilton Rd 248 6640

PLAYHOUSE NEEDS
CRAFT MATERIALS - MARGE TUBS, SQUEEZY BOTTLES, RECORDS, PING PONG BATS & BALLS
113 HAMILTON RD.